REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the captioned application and stand rejected. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 7 and 14 and cancelled claims 12, 13 and 19. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following arguments.

Applicants first submit that the claim 1, 7 and 14 have been amended by the introduction of the limiting features:

> *wherein at least one electrode is arranged at the proximity of the cell contact tip such that it, when a cell is held at the cell-contact tip, is arranged to penetrate the cell membrane of said cell, wherein at least one other electrode is arranged at a distance from the cell contact tip such that it, when a cell is held at the cell-contact tip, is arranged to not penetrate the cell membrane of said cell , and wherein the open end of the hollow electrode sheet at the cell-contact tip has a diameter of between 0.1-0.8 mm*

Support for the electrode arrangements with respect to the cell held by the arrangement is found in the summary of the invention, figures 2-5 and the associated disclosure. Support for the diameter of the open end of the cell-contact tip is found in [0019] of the published US application.

Applicants submit that the amended claims now clearly distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art. More specifically, none of the cited references discloses an electrode arrangement capable of providing multiple recording points both inside and outside the cell being investigated. The present invention gives full transmembranal electrical access to the cell being investigated, which is not possible with anyone of the cited prior art, or any combination thereof.

More specifically it shall be noted that, the device disclosed by Dineen et al. does not in any way relate to an arrangement for electrophysiology studies on single cells. Instead it relates to a miniaturized device for detecting ion concentrations in a liquid sample where the sample is drawn into the small sized sample container in the form of a sheath to wet all electrodes on the sensor cartridge. Hence all electrodes will be exposed to the same environment. Moreover, Dineen et al. discloses an arrangement of ion-selective electrodes each used to register different characteristics in the test liquid. Therefore, there is no teaching of Dineen et al. that would be combined with any other cited art in order to provide a cell holding arrangement in accordance with the present claims.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of claims 1-11, 14-18 and 20.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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